



Patent Application  
2771-272 CIP

1763

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re United States Patent Application of:**

**Applicant:** BAUM, Thomas H., et al.

**Application No.:** 09/874,102

**Date Filed:** June 5, 2001

**Title:** PLASMA-ASSISTED DRY  
ETCHING OF NOBLE  
METAL-BASED MATERIALS

**Docket No.:** ATMI-272 CIP  
(7482)

**Examiner:** OLSEN, Allan W.

**Art Unit:** 1763

**Confirmation No.:** 6818

**Customer No.:** 25559

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that I am mailing the attached documents to the Commissioner for Patents on March 3, 2004, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, and Express Mailed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.10.

*Katrina T. Holland*

Katrina T. Holland

March 3, 2004

Date

EV 160595242 US

Express Mail Label Number

RECEIVED  
MAR 09 2004  
TC 1700

**RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 3, 2003 OFFICE ACTION  
IN UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION NO. 09/874,102**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This responds to the December 3, 2003 Office Action in the above-identified application.

Please amend the specification of the application as set out in the following **Section I (Amendments to the Specification)**.

Please amend the claims of the application as set out in the following **Section II (Amendments to the Claims)**.

Remarks addressing the various issues raised in the December 3, 2003 Office Action are set out in **Section III (Remarks)** hereof.